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8. (Once Amended) The fireplace of claim 1, wherein the translucent artificial embers comprise fused silica particles configured to withstand temperatures of at least 3000 degrees Fahrenheit.

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12. (Once Amended) A fireplace comprising:

a combustion chamber enclosure, wherein the combustion chamber enclosure includes a support structure, said support structure being configured to support a plurality of loosely separable and at least partially translucent artificial embers including fused silica particles; and a light source arranged and configured relative to said support structure so as to illuminate said artificial embers when supported by said support structure.

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15. (Once Amended) A fireplace comprising:

an enclosure, wherein the enclosure includes a support structure, said support structure being configured to support a plurality of loosely separable and at least partially translucent artificial embers including fused silica particles; and a light source arranged and configured relative to said support structure so as to illuminate said artificial embers when supported by said support structure.

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19. (Once Amended) An apparatus for electrically simulating glowing embers within an enclosure of a fireplace, the apparatus comprising:

a support structure configured to be insertable with the enclosure and defining an ember support bed for supportably holding a plurality of translucent artificial embers; a plurality of translucent artificial embers including fused silica particles, configured to be loosely supported by said ember support bed; and a light source arranged and configured to pass light through the ember support bed to illuminate the translucent artificial embers.

20. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the translucent artificial embers comprise fused silica particles configured to withstand temperatures of at least 3000 degrees Fahrenheit.

21. (Once Amended) An apparatus for electrically simulating glowing embers within a fireplace, the apparatus comprising:

an ember support bed;

a plurality of translucent artificial embers including fused silica particles, wherein the translucent artificial embers are individually arrangeable upon the ember support bed; and

a light source positioned to pass light through at least a portion of the ember support bed to illuminate the loose translucent artificial embers.

22. (Once Amended) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the translucent artificial embers comprise fused silica particles configured to withstand temperatures of at least 3000 degrees Fahrenheit.

24. (Once Amended) A method for electrically simulating glowing embers within a fireplace, comprising:

providing an enclosure, wherein the enclosure defines a chamber;

disposing an ember support bed structure within the chamber;

arranging a plurality of translucent artificial embers including fused silica particles on said ember support bed structure;

providing a light source to produce a light beam; and

passing said light beam through at least a portion of the artificial embers to illuminate the translucent artificial embers.

27. (Once Amended) A method for electrically simulating glowing embers within a fireplace, comprising:

providing an enclosure, wherein the enclosure defines a chamber;

disposing an ember support bed structure within the chamber to support a plurality of loosely separable and at least partially translucent artificial embers including fused silica particles; and

providing a light source to produce and pass a light beam through at least a portion of the artificial embers to illuminate the translucent artificial embers.